

REMARKS

Please note that the mailing address of the July 29th official action does not take into account the change of correspondence address filed by facsimile on March 23, 2004.

Examiner Meislin has rejected the originally filed claims 1-10, 13-20 and 23 of the present application. For the reasons which follow, applicant respectfully traverses this rejection of the Examiner. The applicant does, however, wish to extend appreciation to Examiner Meislin for the quite detailed review of the claims of the present invention leading to the finding of patentable subject matter of the originally filed claims of the present application and an indication of the allowability of claims 11, 12, 21 and 22 if rewritten.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the retaining device includes the switch recited in claims 11 and 21 as originally filed and which is believed to be the subject matter recognized to be absent from the prior art. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and the claims which depend therefrom are in condition for allowance for the same and similar reasons that claims 11, 12, 21 and 22 were indicated as being allowable. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has cited the United States patent listed in NOTICE OF REFERENCES CITED as A. By the lack of application of this reference and others like it within the classes or subclasses searched, the Examiner apparently recognizes the clear patentability of the present invention over any of these references.

Therefore, since the claims of the present application have been shown to include limitations directed to the features of applicant's multi-joint wrench which are neither shown, described, taught, nor alluded to in any of the references cited by the Examiner, whether those references are taken singly or in any combination, the Examiner is requested to allow claims 1-23, as amended, of the present application and to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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